(c) During 9th Five Year Plan total 53 projects were sanctioned for Andhra Pradesh. Some of them are as follows:

Refurbishment of Monuments at Quli Qutab Shahi Tomb at Hyderabad, Heritage Interpretation Centre at Golconda, Signages at Hyderabad, Illumination of Pagoh Tomb Hyderabad, Pedestrian Landscape improvement at Charminar, Hyderabad.

Development of Buddhist Centres in Andhra Pradesh

2130. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is historical evidence of Buddhism at several places of Andhra Pradesh, particularly Nagarjuna Sagar, Bhattiprolu, Amaravathi, etc.;

(b) if so, whether Government are also aware that by developing these places tourism can be encouraged and a lot of foreign exchange can be earned; and

(c) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to develop these tourism spots?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Government is also aware that development of these places is good for tourism growth. The ASI has already introduced ticket system for entry at two places viz. at Amaravati and Nagarjunakonda levying Rs. 5.00 each for Indian visitor and $ 2 or Rs. 100.00 each for foreign visitors.

(c) Since these sites are protected by ASI, regular conservation works are being carried out by them to keep them in presentable condition.

Development Garhmukteshwar as a tourist place

†2131. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to develop religious city Garhmukteshwar as a tourist place;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(d) the expenditure estimated to be incurred on this work?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (d) The Government of Uttar Pradesh had prepared a broad plan for Garhmukteshwar, but it was not found financially sound and workable. The Department of Tourism has advised the State Government to send a proposal which should not exceed Rs. 2.00 crores in the first phase. A proposal has been received on 6th March, 2003.

Development of sea-beaches

2132. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to develop the sea beaches in the country to attract both domestic and foreign tourists;

(b) the beach-wise details of the plan formulated;

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose to the concerned States during the last three years; and

(d) the details of co-ordinated efforts made with other Ministries/ Government departments?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Tourism, Government of India has formulated schemes of integrated development of Tourist Circuits and Product/Infrastructure and destination development for development of infrastructure facilities at places of tourist interest including the sea-beaches in the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(b) During the year 2002-2003, out of the six identified circuits the following cover coastal areas:

(1) Western Circuit—(Konkan Riviera circuit) Bombay—Alibagh (Mandva)—Muradjanjira-Ganapatipule-Vijaydurg-Mithibad-Kunkeshwar-Mochetmad-Sindhudurg-Tarkarli-Shiroda-Savantwadi-Amboli-Goa-Coastal Karnataka-Bekal.